

**REMARKS**

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-18 and 20-30 are pending in the application. Claim 14 has been amended. Claim 19 has been canceled. The subject matter of canceled claim 19 has been incorporated into claim 14.

**I. Double Patenting**

Referring to pages 2-5 of the Office Action, the Examiner has issued the following two rejections:

Claims 1-3 and 14-18 have been rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-3 of U.S. Patent No. 7,022,170 to Taguchi et al.; and

Claims 1-3 and 14-18 have been rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-3 of U.S. Patent No. 7,083,664 to Taguchi et al.

A rejection based on obviousness-type double patenting can be avoided by filing a terminal disclaimer. The filing of a terminal disclaimer to obviate a rejection based on obviousness-type double patenting is not an admission of the propriety of the rejection, and raises neither a presumption nor estoppel on the merits of the rejection (see, MPEP § 804.02).

Applicants have filed herewith terminal disclaimers. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw these double patenting rejections.

Referring to pages 5 and 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner has issued the following two provisional rejections.

Claims 1-3, 13-18 and 28-30 are provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-10 of co-pending Application No. 10/771,464; and

Additionally, claims 1-30 are provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-18 of co-pending Application No. 10/503764.

As described above, a rejection based on obviousness-type double patenting can be avoided by filing a terminal disclaimer. The filing of a terminal disclaimer to obviate a rejection based on obviousness-type double patenting is not an admission of the propriety of the rejection, and raises neither a presumption nor estoppel on the merits of the rejection (see, MPEP § 804.02).

In an effort to advance the prosecution, Applicants have filed herewith terminal disclaimers. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw these provisional double patenting rejections.

### **III. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 14 & 16-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Published Application No. 2001/0029869 to Fujiwara ("Fujiwara '869").

Without admitting that the rejection is correct, Fujiwara '869 fails to describe or suggest the ink jet recording ink presently recited in claim 14. As described above, claim 14 has been amended by incorporating the subject matter of canceled claim 19. Claim 19 is not under rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

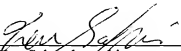
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